

never provided the major Allied air fields envisioned, but its seizure had other, more important results. By electing to fight a decisive battle at Leyte, the Japanese had committed their fleet and a major part of their air arm, both suffering crippling losses.

Jack Selvian, Corporal United States Air Corps was wounded in the line of duty, while serving at Tacloban Air Base on Leyte Island. Jack was working near the flight line next to stacked aircraft engines, stacked two and three high. After dusk, work was being done under the illumination of artificial light, a Japanese fighter performed a low altitude bombardment in an attempt to destroy the stacked engines. There was a space of 6 inches between the crates, and debris was blown through this gap hitting Jack in the left wrist and the left knee. Jack was later released from duty on December 24, 1945. After four years away from his family, he left the U.S. Air Corps with an Honorable Discharge, yet no one ever submitted his name to receive the Purple Heart. The records have been corrected and Jack will receive the Purple Heart on January 2, 1999. This honor will be bestowed 54 years after being earned.

Jack was born in Fresno on June 21, 1921, and upon his return from the war he married the former Violet Shumavon, the couple have been married for 51 years. They have two daughters, Susan Millard and Betty Gross, and have been blessed with five grandchildren. Jack and Paul Shumavon were proprietors of a grocery store for 20 years, and later co-owned the Chestnut Avenue Disposal Site. More recently Jack has been involved in farming grapes for raisin production.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jack Selvian, Corporal, United States Air Force. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jack Selvian best wishes for the future and sincerest thanks for his wartime sacrifice.

HONORING DOROTHY T. LEGGETT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless contributions to the Brooklyn community.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Dorothy Leggett has truly made an indelible mark in her community. Throughout her tenure in the community, Dorothy has striven to create numerous opportunities for all. As President of the National Council of Negro Women, Brooklyn Section, she introduced many new programs including the recognition of Black men who positively contribute to the Brooklyn community. Later, she unselfishly devoted herself to numerous organizations such as Mary McLeod Bethune Day Care Center, where she served on the Board of Directors for over twenty years; Church Women Untied, where she served as past Secretary; Community Planning Board #3; Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce; and the Unity Democratic Club.

Dorothy is truly a Renaissance woman! As a former Executive of Brownsville Multi-Service Center, she currently owns her own business, Hats Galore, on Nostrand Avenue. She

also serves as Vice-President of the Chauncey Street Block Association, a community group that she helped reorganize.

Despite her numerous activities, Dorothy has raised two daughters, Doranne and Carmen. She has also been blessed with four beautiful grandchildren, David, Patrick, Chantel and Darylyn.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dorothy T. Leggett for her tireless and unwavering service to the community.

IN HONOR OF ST. ROCCO PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

The church was established in 1924 and one of the first acts of the founding Pastor, Father Sante Gattuso, was to institute the Sodality. Today, it is the largest organization in the Parish. Including the new members to be initiated this weekend, the membership numbers 225 people. Most of the members are second and third generation members and a few are even fourth generation members.

The members of the Sodality have made invaluable contributions to the Parish. Because of their efforts, church activities, dinners, and the annual St. Rocco Festival are always well-attended and very successful. The success of these events is essential to the financial stability of the church and the school, so the help of the members of the Sodality is invaluable.

In addition to participating in religious functions and helping at church activities, members also visit the sick and shut-in members of the parish, pray the Rosary at the funeral home for deceased members and accompany them to the cemetery after the funeral mass. Every year, the members fill two buses to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the ministry of love and service provided by the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 24,000 women business owners in South Dakota. Within the last decade, the number of women-owned businesses in South Dakota has grown by over 65%, and their annual revenue has increased by 237%. In fact, women owned firms currently account for 35% of all South Dakota firms, and generate over 14% of the state's business sales.

Additionally, I would like to recognize one of South Dakota's most prominent women's business advocates, Dr. Sandra Christenson. Dr. Christenson is the president of Heartland

Paper Company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Heartland Paper Company is a family owned wholesaler of printing paper, packaging supplies, food service disposables, maintenance supplies, dilution control systems, and janitorial equipment. First founded in 1908, Christenson assumed the presidency of Heartland Paper Company in 1989.

Born and raised in Sioux Falls, Dr. Christenson is currently a member of the National Women's Business Council, the Congressional advisory panel that works with Congress and the President to promote the growth of women owned businesses. Dr. Christenson has been a prominent member of the South Dakota business community for 20 years. She has also been an active member of her industry and community serving on the advisory boards of the National School Supply Association, the National Paper Trades Association, the United Way, and South Dakotans for the Arts.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I believe that women-owned businesses have played an integral role in the economic well being of South Dakota and the nation. As such, I strongly encourage my colleagues to actively support the women business owners in their districts.

SIKHS OBSERVE 300TH BAISAKHI BY MARCHING FOR FREEDOM

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join some of my colleagues in wishing a happy 300th Baisakhi Day to the Sikh Nation. The contributions that Sikhs have made to American life have been significant. They have added to almost every walk of American life.

On April 10, the Sikhs marched in celebration of the 300th Baisakhi anniversary of the day of the last of the 10 Gurus, Guru Gobind Singh, initiated the Khalsa Panth. I understand that it was a glorious event for the Sikh nation, and I would like to congratulate the Sikhs of America and my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who was the march coordinator, on its success.

I understand that the parade looked like a sea of saffron (the Sikh color of freedom) as it moved from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol and that the grounds outside here on the West Front were filled with over 40,000 enthusiastic Sikhs. It must have been something to see!

It is appropriate that the march began at the memorial to Abraham Lincoln, issuer of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Sikh Nation struggles for their freedom, as instructed by the Sikh Gurus. Sikhs are instructed to oppose tyranny wherever it occurs.

The Sikhs are a proud people, and justifiably so. They are a people dedicated to living a holy life, working hard, sharing with those in need, and to the equality of all people and freedom for everyone. Unfortunately, in their own homeland, Sikhs do not enjoy freedom. They have been subjected to tyranny. The Indian Government has also oppressed other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and Dalits (the so-called "untouchables"). Yet India proudly proclaims itself a democracy.